

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

RESOLUTIONS

BY

MR. CRITTENDEN,

IN RELATION TO

The exemption of vessels of commerce and their cargoes from seizure and capture in time of war.

MARCH 9, 1857.—Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CRITTENDEN submitted the following resolutions ; which were read and ordered to be printed :

Resolved, That, in the judgment of the Senate, the complete exemption of all vessels of commerce and their cargoes from seizure or capture in time of war would be a signal blessing to mankind, and that, to the accomplishment of an end so desirable, the Senate will always be ready to give their hearty aid and co-operation.

Resolved, That the mere abolition of privateering would not accomplish that end, but would, in its operation, be unequal and unjust, depriving the United States of a most effectual means of hostility and retaliation against a superior naval power, which, by means of its greater number of public ships, might, almost with impunity, destroy or cripple our commerce, and, therefore, such abolition alone would be inconsistent with the policy and interest of the United States.

Resolved, That this policy of the United States, coinciding with the general interest of mankind, is well explained and vindicated in the statesmanlike letter of the American Secretary of State, Mr. Marcy, to the Count de Sartiges, of July 28, 1856.

Resolved, therefore, That the course pursued by President Pierce, as stated in his last annual message, in reference to certain rules or principles of maritime law in time of war, agreed upon and declared by plenipotentiaries of Russia, France, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, and Turkey, and submitted to him for adoption by this government, meets the cordial approbation and concurrence of the Senate.